

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 ORM-02

TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 VO-03 SCA-01

INSE-00 IO-13 /072 W

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O P 092155Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0756

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7718

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, SREF, PFOR, PINT, CI

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF DEMOCRATIC LEADERS

REF: SANTIAGO 7664

1. SUMMARY: THE WIFE OF EUGENIO VELASCO REPORTS HER HUSBAND AND JAIME CASTILLO, THE OTHER LEADER EXPELLED AUGUST 6, ARE NOW (AUG 9) ON THE TARMAC AT BUENOS AIRES AWAITING THEIR FLIGHT TO VENEZUELA. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO ESTABLISH WHETHER EITHER HAS A VALID US VISA. VELASCO MAY; IT IS UNLIKELY THAT CASTILLO DOES. VELASCO'S FAMILY, INCLUDING HIS WIFE AND US CITIZEN SON-IN-LAW, HAVE TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS HE WANTS TO GO TO THE US. MEANWHILE THE CHILEAN JUDICIARY MUST COME TO GRIPS WITH SEVERAL LEGAL PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO THE EXPULSION. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SAY JUJISTS, INCLUDING SUPREME COURT PRESIDENT EYZAGUIRRE, ARE UPSET BY THE GOVERNMENT'S GROSS BEHAVIOR AND APPARENT FAILURE TO OBSERVE CHILEAN LAW REGARDING EXPULSION AND DETENTION. EVEN PRO-GOVERNMENT "EL MERCURIO" GENTLY EDITORIALIZED THAT THE GOC OWES THE PEOPLE A COMPLETE EXPLANATION FOR ITS ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

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2. WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND POLITICAL COLLEAGUES

OF ONE OR THE OTHER OF THE EXPELLED PAIR. ICEM'S DIRECTOR MOVED QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO ALERT HIS COUNTERPART IN ARGENTINA AND BY EARLY SATURDAY AUGUST 7 HAD DETERMINED THAT THE EXPELLEES HAD BEEN LODGED AT THE HOTEL REGIDOR IN BUENOS AIRES. HE SET UP A TELEPHONE CALL BETWEEN VELASCO AND HIS DISTRAUGHT WIFE EARLY AUGUST 7. MRS. VELASCO HAD VISITED THE EMBASSY THAT MORNING TO ASK OUR HELP AND REPORT HER HUSBAND'S INTEREST IN GOING TO THE U.S. SHE SAYS THAT SHE SENT VELASCO HIS CHILEAN PASSPORT, WHICH HAS EXPIRED, AND AND WHICH CONTAINS A US VISA. LATER THAT AFTERNOON VELASCO'S SON-IN-LAW, PROFESSOR DAVID STEWART OF LOYALA UNIVERSITY (HUSBAND OF THEIR DAUGHTER), SPOKE WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR. HE AND HIS WIFE HAD BEEN VISITING CHILE WHEN VELASCO WAS EXPELLED. STEWART SAID HE WOULD SEEK TO HAVE A US UNIVERSITY EXTEND VELASCO AN OFFER TO TEACH THERE. MRS. VELASCO TOLD US AFTERNOON AUGUST 9 THAT THE TWO EXPELLES ARE LEAVING BUENOS AIRES FOR CARACAS AT ANY MOMENT.

3. A SENIOR CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC (PDK) LEADER TOLD US THE PARTY HAD SPOKEN WITH CASTILLO AND VELASCO, AND THAT THEY HAD BEEN MOVED TO THE VENEZUELAN EMBASSY PENDING THEIR DEPARTURE. CASTILLO CAN HARDLY SEE, SINCE HIS GLASSES DISAPPEARED WHEN HE STRUGGLED WITH SECURITY AGENTS WHEN THEY CAME TO ARREST HIM. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS DOUBT THAT CASTILLO HAS A VALID US VISA, SINCE HE HAS NOT VISITED THE US FOR AT LEAST THREE YEARS. THEY ALSO DOUBT HE WANTS TO GO TO THE US, BECAUSE HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH.

4. THE PDC LEADER TOLD US THAT THE JUDGES INVOLVED IN THE CASE ARE FURIOUS AT THE WAY THE GOC HAS ACTED. THERE ARE AT LEAST TWO LEGAL ACTIONS PENDING: THE COURT OF APPEALS DECISION TO ISSUE A STAY OF THE EXPULSION ORDER UNTIL IT HAS STUDIED THE CASE, AND DECISIONS ON HOW TO DEAL WITH THE HABEAS CORPUS PETITIONS PRESENTED ON BEHALF OF THE PAIR. THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS SAY THAT PRESIDENT OF THE SUPREME COURT JOSE EYZAGUIRRE IS APPALLED BY THE GOC'S ACTIONS. PDC LAWYERS SAY THAT THE GOC IGNORED CHILEAN DECREES REGARDING DETENTION AND EXPULSION. THEY HAVE PREPARED A LETTER TO EYZAGUIRRE CITING OBVIOUS VIOLATIONS OF LAW AND ASKING WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THE RULE OF LAW IN CHILE.

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5. PDC LEADERS SPECULATE THAT ONE REASON EUGENIO VELASCO WAS EXPELLED IS HIS REPORTED INVOLVEMENT IN THE MYSTERIOUS CASE OF CARMELO SORIA, THE UN DUAL NATIONAL FOUND DEAD IN A CANAL ON JULY 16. THEY SAY THAT VELASCO HAD TAKEN THE CASE AND ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, TURNED OVER ALL HIS EVIDENCE TO A UN OFFICIAL ESPECIALLY SENT TO SANTIAGO TO INVESTIGATE THE DEATH. THE PDC CLAIMS VELASCO HAD PROOF

THAT THE GOC KILLED SORIA (SEE SANTIAGO 7561).

6. THE PDC PLANS TO EMPHASIZE THAT THE COMMON BOND BETWEEN VELASCO AND CASTILLO WAS THAT BOTH HAD SIGNED THE JUNE 8 LETTER TO OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS (SANTIAGO 5751). ACCORDING TO THE PDC, ALL OAS COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY THE US, ARE COMMITTED TO HOLDING THE GOC TO ITS PLEDGE THAT NO REPRISALS WOULD BE TAKEN IN CONNECTION WITH THE FIVE LAWYERS' LETTER. (WE DO NOT RECALL SUCH A SPECIFIC PLEDGE, BUT THE PDC PROBABLY WATCHED EVERY WORD OF THE GOC.) THE OTHER PDC MEMBER AMONG THE FIVE ALLEGEDLY IS UNDER OBVIOUS SURVEILLANCE.

7. REPORTEDLY MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY GENERAL BEJARES CALLED IN REPRESENTATIVES OF ALL MEDIA EVENING AUGUST 6. HE PULLED INDEPENDENT AND CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC MEDIA REPS ASIDE. THE THRUST OF HIS STATEMENTS TO BOTH GROUPS WAS THAT THERE WAS TO BE NO SPECULATION OR COMMENTARY ON THE EXPULSION -- OR ELSE. PREDICTABLY MEDIA HAVE PLAYED THE EXPULSION IN LOW KEY. LEADING "EL MERCURIO," HOWEVER, WENT SO FAR AS TO COMMENT ON THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE AUGUST 8. "EL MERCURIO" SAID IT WAS CONFIDENT THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD GOOD REASONS FOR THE EXPULSION, BUT SUGGESTED THAT THE PEOPLE DESERVED TO KNOW THEM.

8. COMMENT: SUPREME DECREE 187 OF JANUARY 1976 REGARDING DETENTION CALLS FOR DULY AUTHORIZED DETENTION WARRANTS, IDENTIFICATION OF THE AGENTS, AND PROMPT INDICATION IN WRITING TO NEXT-OF-KIN OF THE DESTINATION OF THE DETAINEE. SECURITY AGENTS REPORTEDLY FOLLOWED NONE OF THESE REQUIREMENTS IN PICKING UP CASTILLO, AND WE DOUBT THAT THEY DID IT WITH VELASCO, WHO WAS DETAINED IN THE STREETS. AS OF MONDAY, MRS. VELASCO HAD NOT RECEIVED ANYTHING IN WRITING FROM AUTHORITIES.

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9. DECREE LAW 81 OF NOVEMBER 1973 PROVIDES THAT EXPELLED PERSONS WILL BE GIVEN AN OPPORTUNITY TO CHOOSE THE COUNTRY TO WHICH THEY WILL BE SENT -- NEITHER APPARENTLY HAD SUCH AN OPPORTUNITY.

POPPER

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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